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**The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)
Academic Advising Recommendations**

02/15/2017

SB58-16/17

Authored by: Courtney VonLindern, ASUM Senator;

**Sponsored by: Brenna Love, ASUM Senator; Anisa Ricci, ASUM Senator; Alexandria
Schafer, ASUM Senator; Daisy Ward, ASUM Senator**

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests of the University of Montana student body;

Whereas, Student success and retention is crucial to university success;

Whereas, Academic advising at the University of Montana has proven inconsistent across units;

Whereas, Consistent and comprehensive academic advising is crucial to the success of students at the University of Montana;

Whereas, Further mechanisms are needed to ensure that the high quality academic advising that is already provided at the University of Montana is recognized and rewarded;

Whereas, The clear and explicit incorporation of academic advising along with teaching, research, and service in the evaluation and incentivisation of faculty throughout the UM-UFA and UM-MCFA Collective Bargaining Agreements and Departmental Unit Standards would promote more effective advising;

Whereas, the terms “faculty advisor,” “faculty mentor,” and “professional advisor” are not yet clearly defined by the University of Montana;

Whereas, The evolving nature of the University of Montana’s academic advising tools and course catalog presents a level of complexity for advisors as well as advisees

Whereas, There is no mandatory campus-wide advisor training seminar for professional and faculty advisors to ensure that all advisors are up-to-date on major catalog changes and familiarized with tools such as CyberBear, Academic Planner, and DegreeWorks in student advising;

Whereas, There are no established “University of Montana Undergraduate Academic Advising Guidelines” at the University of Montana;

Whereas, There are currently no official incentives for faculty to provide quality advising;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) recommends the explicit incorporation of academic advising along with teaching, research, and service in the evaluation and incentivisation of faculty throughout the UM-UFA

and UM-MCFA Collective Bargaining Agreements and Departmental Unit Standards in the most expeditious manner possible;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends clearly defining the terms “faculty advisor,” “faculty mentor,” and “professional advisor” through the collaboration of the University Planning Committee subcommittee on Academic Advising and the Undergraduate Advising Center;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends instituting a mandatory, annual campus-wide advisor training seminar for all professional and faculty advisors to help ensure that all advisors are up-to-date on major catalog changes and familiarized with tools such as CyberBear, Academic Planner, and DegreeWorks in student advising;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends that training and resources on how to effectively use online advising tools and what to expect during the advising process be provided to all students through venues such as UM’s First-Year Seminar;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends establishing and utilizing the “University of Montana Undergraduate Academic Advising Guidelines” as developed by the ASUM ad hoc Advising Committee, the Office for Student Success, and the Undergraduate Advising Center;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends clearly identifying the responsibilities of students during an advising appointment in the “University of Montana Undergraduate Academic Advising Guidelines;”

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends including consideration of the number of advisees and advising complexity during determinations of faculty workload;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends that the University of Montana develop an effective evaluation for advising, similar to the Course Evaluations that are given out to students at the end of each semester, and that the results be given to the individual faculty and professional advisors at the end of each academic year;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends ensuring that Student Evaluation Committees are convened whenever possible to ensure that students are fully involved in the departmental faculty evaluation process;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to Sheila Stearns, Interim President; Beverly Edmond, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Larry Abramson, Dean, School of Journalism; Chris Comer, Dean, College of Humanities and Sciences; Tom DeLuca, Dean, W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation; Roberta Evans, Dean, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences; Reed Humphrey, Dean, College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences; Stephen Kalm, Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts; Paul Kirgis, Dean, School of Law; Roger Maclean, Dean, School of Extended and Lifelong Learning; Shannon O’Brien, Dean, Missoula College;

Christopher Shook, Dean, School of Business; Brian French, Executive Director, Office for Student Success; and Nathan Domitrovich, Director, Undergraduate Advising Center.

Passed by Committee: March 14th, 2017

Passed by ASUM Senate: March 29th, 2017

Courtney VonLindern,
Chair of Advising Committee

Elizabeth Engebretson
Chair of the Senate